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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 40-74 are pending in the application. Claims 40-74 have been rejected.

Claims 40, 43-46, 48, 51, 54, 56, 57, 59, 62, 64 and 72 have been amended. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claims 42, 50, 52, 53, 60, 68 and 69 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 45, 48, 50, 51, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 45 and 56 have been amended to overcome the antecedent basis deficiencies noted by the Examiner.

Claim 48 has been amended to eliminate the reference to the location of the beacon that was objected to by the Examiner, and Claim 50 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 56 and 57 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections by eliminating the phrases objected to by the Examiner.

It is respectfully asserted that the foregoing amendments merely address matters of form and do not change the literal scope of the claim in any way or result in any prosecution

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history estoppel. Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments render claims 45, 48, 50, 51, 56 and 57 proper under 35 USC 112 and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40-48, 51-64, and 67-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dyke (US 4,700,301). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 40-48, 51-64, and 67-74 under Dyke.

Dyke describes a method of automatically steering a motor vehicle on a preprogrammed course by continuously measuring angles between reference points and using a microprocessor to calculate vehicle position and direction of motion. The method employed for the calculation is triangulation (see e.g. Figs. 2-5, 8, 12-13 and column 4, lines 51-68). The position of the vehicle in two dimensions (and changes over time of that position in order to determine a motion of the vehicle) is calculated with respect to the reference points. In one arrangement (Fig. 8), two physically separated rotating lasers are detected by two detectors: a detector mounted on the vehicle and by another fixed detector that is in radio contact with the vehicle (to measure the synchronization between the lasers).

Dyke does not teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 40 and 59.

Specifically, Dyke does not teach or suggest, inter alia, "a logic circuitry on board the vehicle for determining a difference in time of detection of said two beams, the difference in time being indicative of the angular deviation", as claimed in amended independent claim 40. In fact, as opposed to the limitation recited above, Dyke's system requires continuous synchronization between the vehicle and the system transmitting the beams off board. Dyke is also silent as to the step of "processing by a logic circuitry on board the vehicle of signals generated by the sensor so as to determine a difference in time of detection of said two beams and processing the difference so as to determine the angular deviation", as recited in amended independent claim 59.

Because the method employed by Dyke for determining a two dimensional position is by triangulation, such features as determining a difference in time of detection of the beams and synchronization of the beams in a particular direction are not relevant. On the other hand, when the method employed is triangulation, the beams sources (rotating lasers) must be

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separated. Thus, Dyke fails to disclose all the limitations of independent claims 40 and 59, as amended

An obviousness rejection requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Since Dyke does not teach or suggest all the elements/steps of amended independent claims 40 and 59, the Examiner fails to establish a prima facie showing that Dyke teaches or suggests every feature of amended independent claims 40 and 59.

Claims 42, 52, 53, 60, 68 and 69 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 41-48, 51, 54-58, 61-64, 67, and 70-74 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of claims 40 and 59, and therefore include all the limitations of that claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 41-48, 51, 54-58, 61-64, 67, and 70-74 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claims 40 and 59 and to claims 41-48, 51, 54-58, 61-64, 67, and 70-74 dependent thereon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40-45, 48-50, 52, 54, and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dyke in view of Alvarez et al. (US 2,555,101, hereinafter Alvarez). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 40-45, 48-50, 52, 54, and 55 under Dyke in view of Alvarez.

Dyke was discussed above and that discussion is applicable also here. Alvarez fails to cure the deficiencies of Dyke. Accordingly independent claims 40 and 59, as amended, are allowable over Dyke in view of Alvarez.

Claims 41, 43-45, 48-50, 54, and 55 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 40 and therefore include all the limitations of that claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 41, 43-45, 48-50, 54, and 55 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to amended independent claim 40 and to claims 41, 43-45, 48-50, 54, and 55 dependent thereon.

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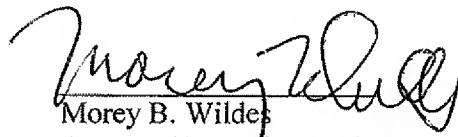
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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